



**DATE:** June 11, 2014

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** John Austin, Board Chair

**SUBJECT:** BRIEFING – RULE REVIEWS

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**Background and Summary:**

The Washington State Board of Health has responsibility under RCW 43.20.050 and other laws to adopt rules to protect public health. Under its authority, the Board has adopted rules into 30 chapters of the Washington Administrative Code.

Substitute Senate Bill 5679 from the second 2013 special legislative session established a requirement for the departments of Health, Ecology, and Labor and Industries to review their rules at least every five years. The purpose is to clarify rules, decrease the number of rules, simplify the regulatory process, and decrease the time for obtaining licenses and permits in order to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses without compromising public health and safety.

The Board uses the Department of Health's rule management and review systems and receives extensive staff support from the Department for much of its rule making. The Board and Department share the same Washington Administrative Code Title, 246, for rule-making. Therefore, the Board's Executive Director recommends the Board's rules undergo review at least every five years following the same policies and procedures used by the Department to comply with SSB 5679. The reviews may include meetings with or surveys of stakeholders. Department staff will conduct reviews of Board rules for which there are associated departmental programs. Board staff would be responsible for reviews of the remaining Board rules.

Tami Thompson, the Department's Regulatory Affairs Manager, is here today to summarize the Department's process and recommendations for rule reviews. A copy of the final bill report for SSB 5679 and of Ms. Thompson's handouts can be found under Tab 6 in member packets.

**Recommended Board Action:**

The Board may choose to consider or modify the following motion:

*The Board directs staff to conduct systematic reviews of all Board rules in conjunction with Department of Health staff, consistent with Department of Health processes and SSB 5679 of 2013.*

**Staff Contact:**

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